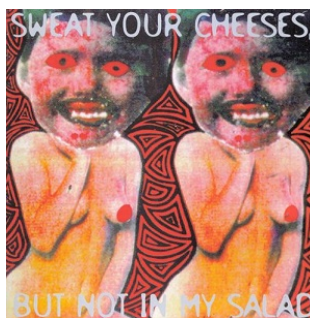


### VDO makes AP's best

By Matt Weitz Thursday, Nov 13 1997



Definitely bent and totally fearless, the musical mad scientists at the helm of our own have garnered yet another prop from the national print media, this time from Alternative Press, the monthly that serves as an international reference point for indie and truly alternative music. In the spring of this year, Managing Editor Dave Segal came across VDO's '97 release Transcontinental Conspiracy in the magazine's slush pile of unsolicited albums, demos, and musical miscellany.

"I didn't know who they were," Segal admits from AP's offices in Cleveland, Ohio. "But I recognized some of the names of people that I liked and respected--Brad Laner, the Mercury Rev people. When I played it, I found it to be one of the most inventive, amazing albums. I wrote a pretty positive review of it, and after it'd come out, I got this big package in the mail with their entire back catalog.

"I listened to all of it," Segal explains, "and I realized that these guys are really special--prolific, but with a super-high quality control. Their stuff was not only good, but in a variety of styles, and whatever they attempted, they excelled at."

The music that VDO makes reflects their love both of experimental music and for collecting the often obscure records that other like-minded bands put out. The organization is primarily Eric Lumbeau, Matt Castille, Christopher Moock, and Brian Artwick, working both on their own and with artists who catch their fancy. Their work more often than not pushes the boundaries of music past mere psychedelia and into the realm of full-blown weird-o-rama kosmiche. Segal--whose "pretty positive" AP review of Transcontinental earlier this year was absolutely glowing--has taken advantage of AP's end-of-the-year round-up to shine a light on VDO, mentioning the group as his choice for Artists of the Year for 1997, and mentioning them prominently in his piece on the brightest hopes for 1998.

"They're just one of the best bands out there right now," he explains. "They're record collectors, sure, but their music is influenced, not derivative, and those influences are incorporated with great subtlety. They have a strong sonic stamp."

Alternative Press' year-end wrap-up will appear in their February 1998 issue, due to hit the stands in January.

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